

MINUTES EMS EDUCATION COMMITTEE

April 11, 2005

Wayne Township Fire Department Headquarters
Indianapolis, Indiana

Meeting called to order at 12:09 p.m. by Ed O'Farrell.

Committee members present:

Ron Parsons
Judy Hallam
Susan Henke
Lindi Holt
Steve Garrison
Jim Christopher
Neil Petry, M.D.
Ed O'Farrell
John Zartman
Tina Butt
Rod Bosley

Staff:

Tony Pagano
Sam Steinhilber

Guests:

Jim Floyd
Bill Hufford, Commission Member
Emery Garwick
Myron Mackey, Commission Member

Agency Reorganization

Tony gave a brief description of the agency reorganization. Senate bill 56 has passed and makes the following changes: The State agency will be called the Indiana Department of Homeland Security and will bring together the State Emergency Management Agency, PSTI, DFBS, and CTASC under 1 agency. The EMS Commission will remain unchanged and administration of IC16-31 will fall under the State Fire Marshall. Mr. Garvey will remain over EMS.

Oral Testing

Tony also presented this section. Asked members present if anyone had had an opportunity to read the document about the duties of an EMT as presented at the last meeting. No one indicated they had done so. He asked if anyone had objections to oral testing of the EMT test. No one had comments. He indicated that the National Registry did not allow oral testing.

After discussion and questions from the group an effort was made to develop a qualification that no accommodations be made regarding EMS testing. Major objections were based on the inability of the candidate to adequately and successfully meet the other requirements of being an EMT; primarily documentation and reading patient's meds, etc. Each successful candidate shall be able meet the NHTSA technical standards (Job Function Analysis). 100% unanimous of those present and voting.

Driving Revisions

Steve Garrison reported that the Commission passed the driving recommendation as it was submitted. He as staff will put together the information and get it out.

NEW BUSINESS

Synchronized Cardioversion for Intermediate Curriculum

Tony gave a brief description of what transpired at the most recent EMS Commission meeting regarding some of the intermediate curriculum items. Methodist Hospital of Gary had presented waivers to the Commission regarding Cardioversion, Dextrose 25%, and Sodium Bicarb. The Commission approved the waiver request and then requested that the issue be returned to the Education Committee to discuss the addition to the curriculum for all Intermediates.

The first Intermediate programs recommended that cardioversion be added to the curriculum but the Commission was not ready to approve it at that time. **Mr. Garrison** said that it should be part of the curriculum since it is part of ACLS and part of the practical exam. He made a motion to put Synchronized Cardioversion into the Intermediate curriculum as a skill for the Intermediates. The motion was seconded by Dr. Petry. This would not be a required mandatory update since the intermediates must have an ACLS card to recertify. Intermediates would be notified of the change and would be activated when approved by their medical director after documentation of training. Vote was unanimous pass.

25% Dextrose & Sodium Bicarbonate for Intermediate Curriculum

Discussion that 25% Dextrose is not a separate drug from the approved drug Dextrose 50%. Therefore there should not be an issue about updating the list to include 25% Dextrose. This is a dosage, not a new drug. Recommendation by the Education Committee that all drug concentrations be removed from the list of Intermediate-approved drugs: Lidocaine, Dextrose, and Epinephrine. Motion by Garrison, seconded by Christopher. 100% unanimous.

An issue has come up regarding using medications listed in the curriculum for purposes not explicitly mentioned in the curriculum. An example would be using Morphine for orthopedic pain. The curriculum does not mention using it for that purpose. Motion to utilize any drug on the approved drug list for Intermediates for any FDA approved use with medical director approved protocol. Sodium Bicarb should not be added to the drug list since it is not on ACLS protocol. Motion by Garrison; second by Bosley, motion passed unanimous.

Recommendation by the Education Committee that although we don't necessarily endorse waivers, we do believe that if a waiver is granted for anything outside the scope of the curriculum for any level of certification, an educational component shall be included with the waiver. Motion by John Zartman, seconded by Judy Hallam. 100% unanimous

Next meeting: July 11, 2005